

MARVEL
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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More 'Mmm in the middle.

Tiny Ritz crackers deliver
a big cheese
CRUNCH!



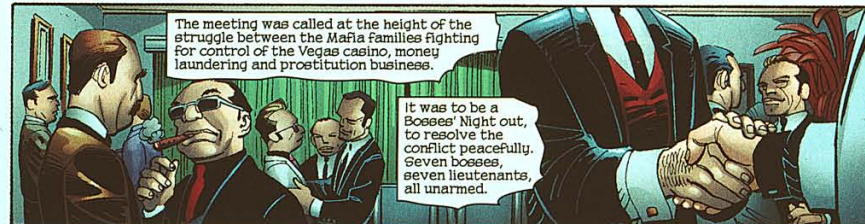
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PROLOGUE.
Las Vegas, July 3, 1957.



The story of the Vegas Thirteen is a piece of unsubstantiated lore dating back to the fifties. The story involved a meeting of some of the most powerful Wise Guys from New York and Nevada.



The meeting was called at the height of the struggle between the Mafia families fighting for control of the Vegas casino, money laundering and prostitution business.

It was to be a Bosses' Night out, to resolve the conflict peacefully. Seven bosses, seven lieutenants, all unarmed.



It was only as the dinner began that they noticed only six bosses were present. Missing was Morris Forelli, from New York. Since his trusted lieutenant, George Sims, was present, the rest were unconcerned, assuming that Forelli had simply been delayed.



They did not know that Forelli had discovered Sims was working for one of the rival families, and had helped arrange a recent hit on one of Forelli's sons. To say the least, Sims was out of favor.

And Forelli was out of patience.

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The result, according to Mob word of mouth, was the biggest hit of its kind since the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. Six leading Mafia figures and their lieutenants, plus Forelli's consigliere, wiped out in one night, in one bold move.

But the Mob had learned a few lessons since the last time something like this was attempted. They wanted no evidence that could be printed in newspapers or magazines. No photos. No witnesses.

No bodies.

Forelli's men carried the bodies out of the Golddigger Hotel and Casino and transported them across the Nevada desert, well off the beaten track.

The story suggests that the bodies were brought to a pit dug by earth movers in an isolated part of the desert, far from cities or roads, and Forelli's men proceeded to pile the bodies into a mass grave once used for illegally dumping chemicals from several nearby factories.

Here ended the careers of some of the most notorious members of the New York and Nevada crime families. Men raised in blood, who understood only violence, and whose lives ended in a shower of bullets.

Their bodies were left where no one would ever find them, with only the whispers of their conscience, and the rage of their souls, to keep them company. For the Vegas Thirteen, it was the end of their story.

*Marshall LeGrand,
A Brief History of the
Gangland Wars, 1950-1963.*

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AP NEVADA - In a move designed to keep United States military assets at peak readiness, the Pentagon today announced a return to limited testing of high-energy weapons.

"We're looking to gather data on the new technologies we've developed and the degree they may maximize the amount of energy output involved, giving us bigger yields from smaller payloads," explained General Maxwell Sinclair, Pentagon Liaison.

"We'll start out with underground testing using what we call pocket devices, small enough to have no effect or environmental impact outside a very small part of the Nevada desert. No fallout, no seismic damage."

"Our first test will be with a pocket Gamma device."

"We don't anticipate any problems."



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"We believe that gamma rays may have been crucial to the development of life on Earth," explained UCLA's Dr. Henry Davis, a leading proponent of gamma ray research.

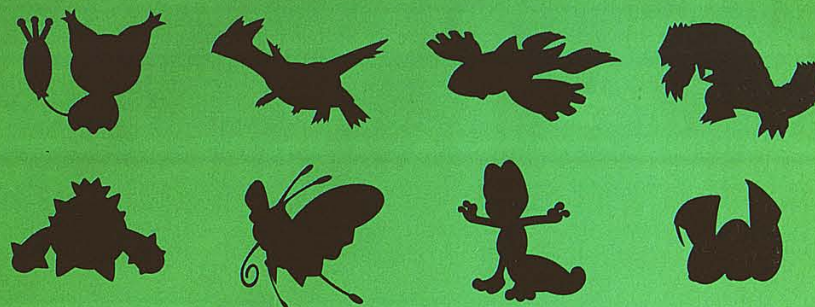
"That process was set in motion when gamma rays struck the pre-organic compounds and chemical soup of primordial Earth."

"And from that dark, barren emptiness, came life."

"Then, as God said on the seventh day..."

"...let the good times roll."

"So, are we having a good time, or what?"



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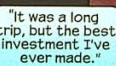
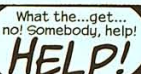
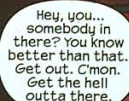
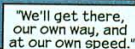


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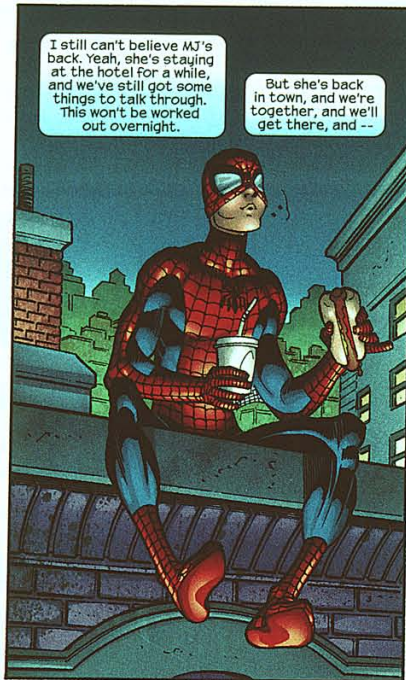
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OR FOE?



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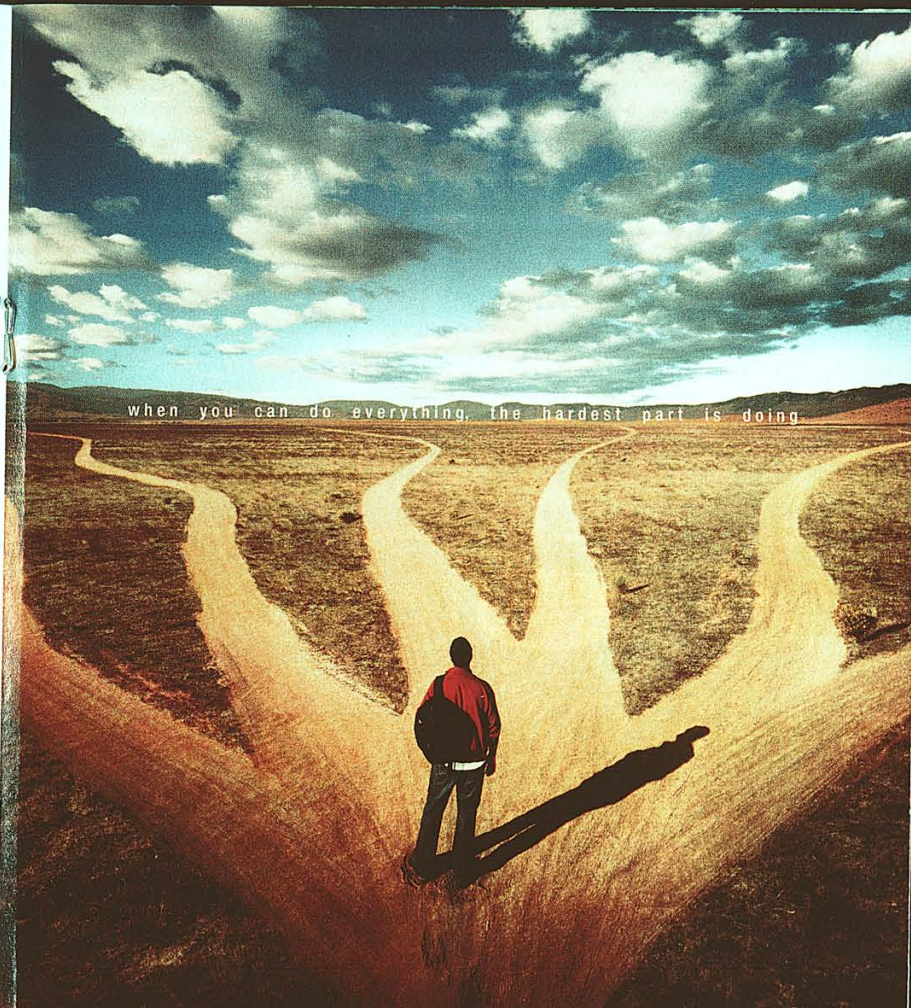


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Dark Cloud 2

PlayStation 2



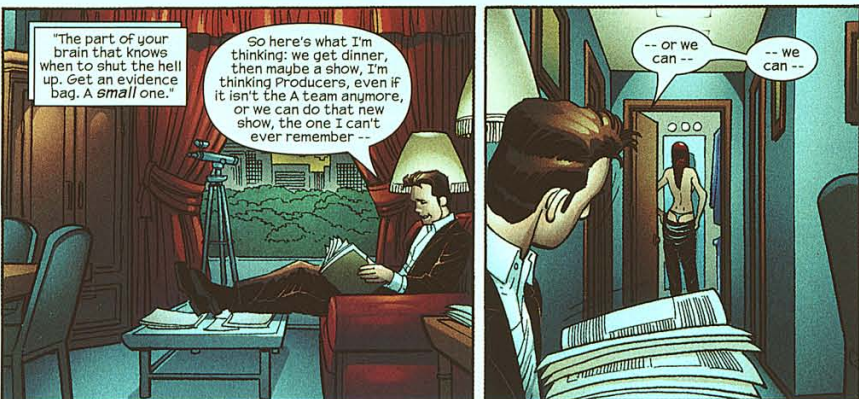
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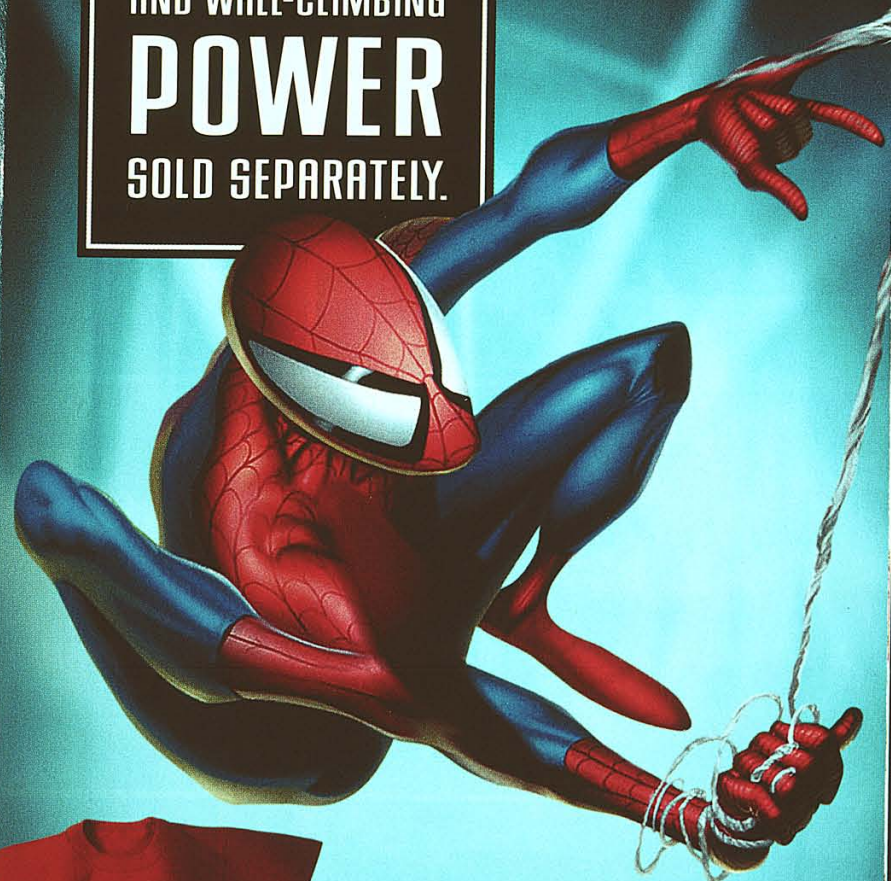


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When MJ came back, I was afraid the Parker luck would hold up, and we wouldn't have any time to spend with each other, that one of my favorite stalkers would come out to play, but so far it's been --

EEEEEEEEEE!
HELP!

-- quiet.

EEEEEEEEEE!
SOMEONE
HELP!

Stupid, Peter. Never comment on a no-hitter until *after* the game.

Lamont?
What the hell
are you --

About time.
I wondered
when you were
gonna show
up.

EEEEEEEEEE!

You did this
to get my
attention?

It's not like you
gave me your phone
number. What else am
I gonna do?

You know how
many other guys
came by before
you finally showed
up? Paredevil, Thor,
half the Fantastic
Four, which I guess
would be the
Terrific Two --

So why didn't
you use one of
them?

I don't know
them. I know you.
One costume in my
life is plenty,
thanks.

Two dates
and already we're
going steady. You're
such a sweetie.

One more remark
and I'm playing "YMCA"
on the boom-box. Loud.
In German.

I'm all
yours.

"So, where are
we going?"

"Best if
you see for
yourself."

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Must've
been some
party.

Yeah. The
handprint over
there pretty much
confirms it was
one of your
kind.

You mind
explaining
that "one
of your kind"
remark?

No, it's not. Look, there's
good guys and bad guys. I'm
one of the good guys, okay?
I don't go around killing
people, or --

What's wrong,
mask cutting off
the blood to your
brain? It's pretty
obvious.

Smashing buildings?
Scaring people? Getting
into fights with each other,
fights so big the city takes
weeks to fix it all just so
you bunch can do it all
over again?

You're a
costume.
You're a power.
You live in
my city.

And
you're a
pain. All
of you.

Sure, you can do some good,
and right now, I need you. But
tell the truth: if every costume
disappeared and the city was
just the ordinary bad guys and
the ordinary cops... don't you
think it'd be just a little
better for everybody?

I --

What did
you want
to show
me?

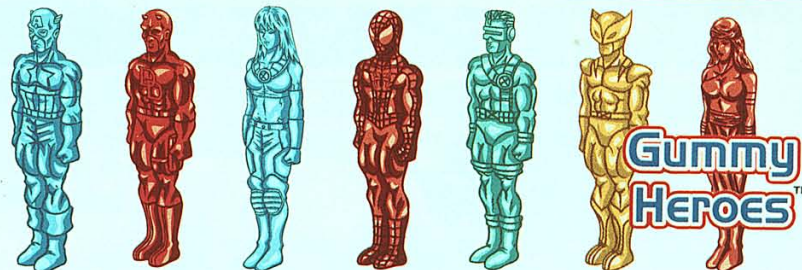
I had my people
take the impressions
off this and get them
over to the lab for
fingerprint analysis.
We checked every
active perp file and
came up empty.



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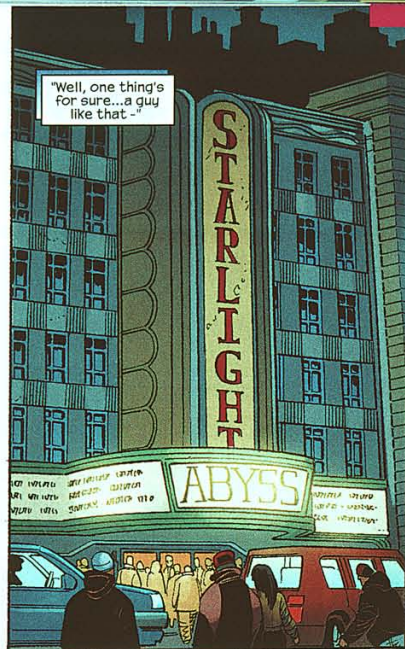
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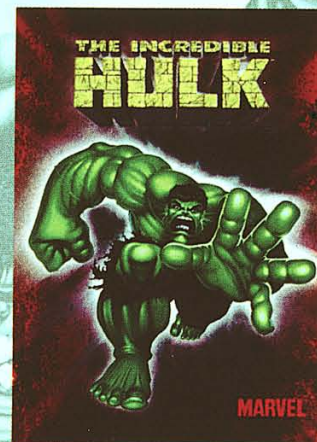
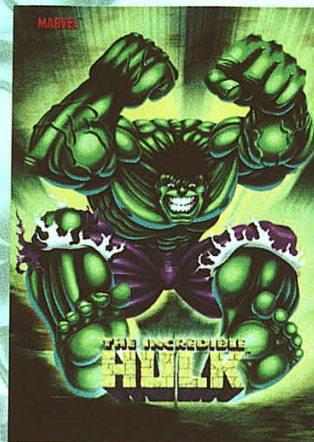
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This used to be a high-class joint. The Starlight. Steaks and martinis and broads with legs up to here --

Hey, back off --



-- or you and me gonna have a problem, you got that?

A problem? I don't think so.



I don't have a problem.



You're the one with the problem.



Anybody else got a problem? Huh? Anybody? C'mon... somebody have a problem. No?



Now I want a martini. And I wanna hear Sinatra, and Sammy Davis, and Rosemary Clooney, and...what the hell was the name of that lazy bastard...yeah, I wanna hear Peter Lawford, and I'm gonna --



-- and I'm gonna have some fun.



Run!
Get outta here!
Eeeek!
Wait, you didn't give me your number!



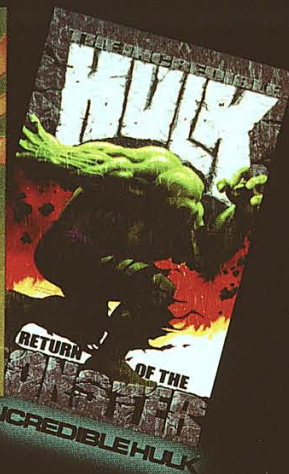
Uh, oh... that can't be good.



To be continued.

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